UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,932	11/01/2001	Mark S. Buehler	021556.0125	9943

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EXAMINER
BROWN, RUEBEN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2611	

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-49_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-49_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

       1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

       3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _3/12/03_.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

IDS

1.   Examiner notes that the application number and docket number listed on the IDS, filed

3/12/2003 do not correspond to the present application. In particular, application number listed

on the IDS is 10/291,977, along with its corresponding docket number, 069208.0109. However,

examiner has revived the prior art references listed on the IDS statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed
> in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for
> patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an
> international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this
> subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United
> States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3.   Claims 15-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tonelli, (U.S.

Pat # 6,229,540).

        Considering claim 15, the claimed 'method for communicating with a first and second

video network devices, having first and second communication formats, comprising interfacing

with a management platform through a management interface to identify the video network

devices' is met by the disclosure Tonelli that a plurality of devices, such as a PC, routers,

adapters, etc. may be connected in a LAN and organized using a Netsuite Professional Design

program, see col. 5, lines 10-50; co. 6, lines 50-67; Fig. 2; Fig. 3e; Fig. 6.

The claimed feature of 'associating the first and second video network devices with first

and second objects' is met by the disclosure of Tonelli displaying an icon, to represent the

objects in the network, also see Fig. 2; Fig. 3e & Fig. 6.

'translating communication to the first and second video network devices with the first

and second objects with first and second communication formats, is met by the discussion in

Tonelli that the different categories of devices, may communicate with Netsuite Professional

Design program using different protocols, col. 6, lines 50-65; col. 7, lines 10-45; col. 12, lines 1-

30.

Considering claim 16, the first and second objects as management beans reads on the

discussion in Tonelli of the interface that allows the user to choose the connection parameters of

the video network devices, see col. 4, lines 45-67; Fig. 43-44; col. 14, lines 1-31.

Considering claim 17, Tonelli teaches that the devices may operate using SNMP, col. 18,

lines 37-48 & col. 19, lines 10-45.

Considering claims 18-19, Tonelli teaches that video network devices may have at least one of a plurality of categories, which reads on the claimed 'dividing the video network devices into types of devices, establishing an object class for each type, such that each type of video network device has a common interface for exchanging data between the external interface and objects of the class', see col. 6, lines 52-60; col. 13, lines 1-40; Fig. 2; Fig. 9; Fig. 22.

Considering claims 20 & 25, the claimed method and system for interfacing an SNMP management application with network devices having disparate native interface protocols, comprising; 'representing each device as a management bean' reads on the interface that a user utilizes to add a device to the system, see Fig. 34; Fig. 43-44; col. 7, lines 15-45; col. 12, lines 1-67; col. 13, lines 12-60; col. 14, lines 1-40.

The claimed features of 'representing a SNMP management instruction for a device to a SNMP adapter, communicating the SNMP management instruction using the SNMP as a management bean client in communication with the server', is met by the discussion in Tonelli that a suite of tools using the SNMP protocols may be used to probe and interface with devices in the network, see col. 19, lines 1-42.

'communicating the SNMP management instruction from the server through the management bean to the device in the native protocol of the device', is also met by col. 19, lines 1-50.

Considering claims 21-22, Tonelli teaches that the devices may also include IP

interactivity, col. 19, lines 10-40 & col. 20, lines 1-60.

Considering claim 23, the claimed 'standardized attributes defined for each client' reads

on the standard interface information used for each client in Tonelli, col. 19, lines 34-55.

Considering claims 24 & 26, the PC and intermediate devices in Tonelli read on video

network devices, since they are devices that transmit and/or process video data.

Considering claim 27, the claimed method for managing video network having plural

video devices, comprises steps that correspond with subject matter mentioned above in the

rejection of claim 15, and is likewise treated.

Considering claim 28, the claimed feature of 'listing the attributes of the object' is met by

col. 13, lines 15-40 & col. 14, lines 1-25; Figs. 43-44.

Considering claims 29-30, the claimed subject matter reads on the interface shown in Fig.

43 & Fig. 44, wherein a user is chooses the parameters for an object to be added.

Considering claims 31-32, Tonelli teaches that the objects may be interfaced using

SNMP protocols, col. 19, lines 1-45.

Considering claims 33 & 39, Tonelli teaches that some of the parameters, may be edited

by the user and some are read-only, col. 12, lines 65-67 thru col. 13, lines 1-15.

Considering claims 34 & 37, Tonelli discloses the use of password technology for

restricting access to the system to only authorized user, col. 19, lines 1-11.

Considering claim 35, the claimed non-SNMP instruction is broad enough to read on the

IP protocols discussed in Tonelli, col. 19, lines 1-52.

Considering claim 36, the claimed system for managing a video network having plural

video network devices comprising;

'plural objects, each object having attributes to represent a video network device,

including one or more attributes' is met by the disclosure in Tonelli showing a plurality of user

selectable parameters for the objects in a LAN, see Fig. 43 & Fig. 44; col. 12, lines 1-67; col. 14

lines 5-35.

'one or more MIB having variables of the video network device' is met by the interface

itself, shown in Fig. 43 & Fig. 44.

'MIB summation engine operational to select one or more attributes and one or more variables to dynamically create a MIB for a predetermined one of the video network devices' reads on the software that process the user input and selections, for configuring the object, which is inherent in Tonelli; col. 7, lines 15-45.

Considering claim 38, the claimed 'tiered folder structure' is met by the tabbed menu feature shown in Tonelli, Fig. 43 & Fig. 44.

Considering claim 40, the claimed 'management application associated with the video network and operational to mange the video devices' is met by the operation of the Netsuite Professional Design program, col. 5, lines 24-40.

Considering claims 41-42, Tonelli discloses the use of SNMP protocols as an optional protocol for managing one or more devices; see col. 19 & col. 20, lines 1-35.

Considering claims 43-44, the claimed features are also met by Tonelli, col. 19, lines 1-50.

Considering claim 45, the claimed method for managing disparate video network devices, comprises elements that correspond with subject matter mentioned above in the rejection of claims 20 & 36, and are likewise treated.

Considering claims 46-47 & 49, the claimed features read on the user interfacing with the

screen designed for configuring a device on the system, see Fig. 43; col. 7, lines 35-55; col. 8,

lines 10-65; col. 12, lines 55-67 thru col. 13, lines 1-50.

Considering claim 48, Tonelli teaches the use of HP Openview software, col. 18, lines

45-65.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams,

(U.S. Pat # 6,202,211), in view of Tonelli, (U.S. Pat # 6,229,540).

Considering claim 1, the claimed system for managing video network devices,

comprising:

'a management adapter accessible to a user interface, the management adapter having a

list that identifies the video network devices', Williams discloses that the server 20, which

controls the plurality of client systems 22, includes an interface to manipulate the configurations

of the plurality of client system 22, shown as desktops 25, each of which corresponds with a

respective client system 22, see Fig. 2; col. 4, lines 21-50. However, Williams does not

explicitly show the video network devices as a list, according to the claimed language.

Nevertheless Tonelli, which is the same field of endeavor, of configuring a local area

network of devices, shows its group of devices as a list, see Fig. 9; Fig. 34; Fig. 52; col. 7, lines

35-55 & col. 16, lines 34-52. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made, to modify Williams, with the feature of Tonelli displaying the

plurality of video network devices as a list, at least for the purpose of allowing the user to more

easily manipulate the range of the instant plurality of network devices, as taught by Tonelli. The

management adapter reads on the sever 20, in Williams, (Fig. 2) and the Netsuite Professional

Design software, discloses in Tonelli, col. 5, lines 22-40.

'device access layer interfaced with the management adapter and the video network

devices, such that the device access layer represents the video network devices as objects, also

read son the disclosure of Williams of representing the client systems 22, as desktops 25; (Fig. 2;

Figs. 6-10; col. 8; col. 9). Also, Tonelli displays the plurality of video network devices as

objects; see Fig. 2; Fig. 34; col. 16, lines 34-52.

Considering claims 2, the claimed device access layer representing the video network

devices as management beans reads on the discussion in Tonelli of the interface that allows the

user to choose the connection parameters of the video network devices, see col. 4, lines 45-67;

Fig. 43-44; col. 14, lines 1-31.

Considering claims 3-4, Tonelli discloses that there is a plurality of different protocols for

video network devices to communicate with management adapter, see col. 6, lines 50-66; col. 14,

lines 1-14.

Considering claims 5-6, Tonelli teaches that video network devices may have at least one

of a plurality of categories, which reads on the claimed 'plural objects belonging to plural types',

see col. 6, lines 52-60; col. 13, lines 1-40; Fig. 2; Fig. 9; Fig. 22.

Considering claims 7-11, in Fig. 2, Fig. 4 & Fig. 5, Williams shows that devices may be

endpoint type (TV 23); MCU type (converter 51); gatekeeper & gateway (server 20); network

device type (set top box 22). Moreover, Tonelli also reads on the claimed features, see col. 8,

lines 8-65; col. 13, lines 1-40; col. 14, lines 1-25; Fig. 22: endpoint type (Desktop); MCU type

(DSU); gatekeeper & gateway (server); network device type (Hub). Tonelli particularly points

out that the devices may at least be of a DTE (data terminating equipment) or DCE (data

communication equipment) type, which read on the claimed subject matter.

Considering claim 12, the claimed 'attributes that support access to a video network devices', reads on the discussion in Tonelli, col. 4, lines 45-52; col. 13, lines 1-40; col. 14, lines 1-25; Fig. 22.

Considering claims 13-14, the claimed feature of the first & second video network devices communicating with the management beans with a first & second format reads on the various objects that utilize different protocols. As for the claimed feature of the common format between the management bean and the management adapter, the feature reads on the actual application software that interfaces the various devices to the Netsuite Professional Design program group; see col. 5, lines 22-48.

Conclusion

6.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

A)   Collins   Discloses a network access platform for a plurality of devices in a LAN.

B)   Blumhardt, Rakib   Teaches a customer premise equipment that interfaces with a plurality of transmission protocols.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

> Commissioner for Patents
> P.O. Box 1450
> Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
> www.uspto.gov

> **or faxed to:**
> (703) 872-9306, (for formal communications intended for entry)
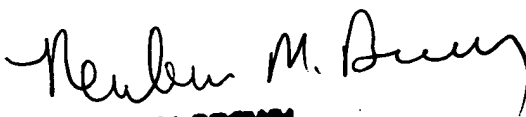> **Or:**
> > (571) 273-7290 (for informal or draft communications, please label
> > "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reuben M. Brown whose telephone number is (571) 272-7290. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-6:00), First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on (571) 272-7294. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Reuben M. Brown

REUBEN M. BROWN
PATENT EXAMINER